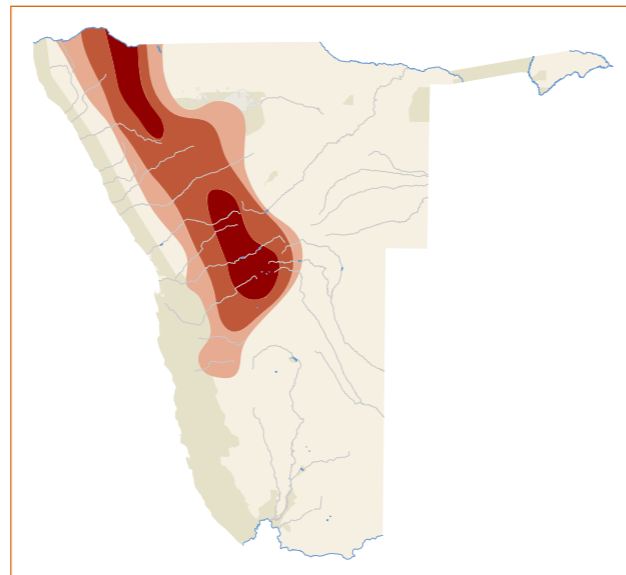


White-tailed Shrike | *Lanioturdus torquatus*



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This species is the most common of all Namibia's near-endemics, with a population size estimated at 1.5 million birds (Jarvis & Robertson 1999). This is not the result of a large range, since its area of occupancy is similar to several other near-endemics at about 185,000 km². Instead, it results from very high densities, which can reach 26 birds per km² in north-west regions of Namibia (Robertson *et al.* 1995). Nests can be found as close as 100 m to 200 m apart in prime habitat at the base of inselbergs (RE Simmons unpubl. data). It also occurs commonly in Angola, and birds are thought to migrate from Namibia to Angola at certain times of the year, becoming much scarcer in Angola in September and October (Dean 2000). With Angola opening up after 40 years of civil war and following a number of recent trips through south-western Angola (CJ Brown, J Mendelsohn, M Mills, RE Simmons pers. obs.), evidence suggests that Angola might support a larger population of White-tailed Shrike than was previously recognised. Population studies of this species in Angola should be undertaken. Until such time as better information becomes available, we retain it as a near-endemic species to Namibia. White-tailed Shrikes breed in response to good rains and may build several nests following predation events, which are common (Simmons & Boix-Hinzen 2005). They lay eggs from September to April, with a peak in January and February (n=58). They lay two or three eggs, the average being 2.2 (Brown *et al.* 2015). They occur commonly in protected areas of the Namib-Naukluft National Park and western parts of Etosha National Park, and are the least



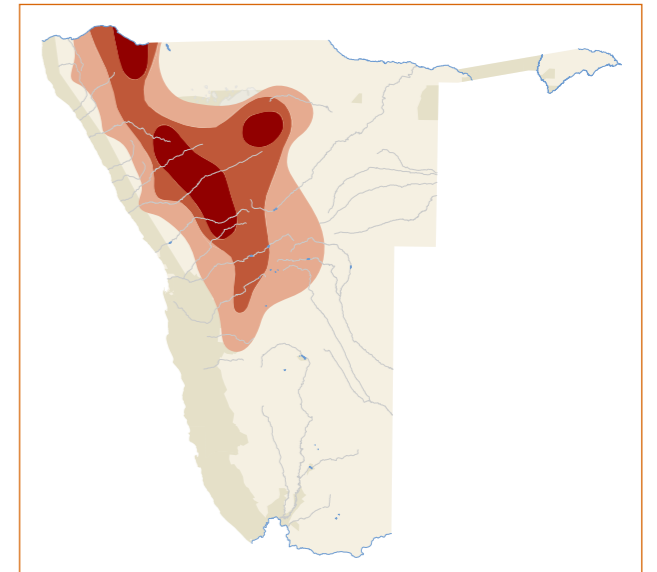
susceptible to anthropogenic change of all Namibia's near-endemics because of their high numbers and use of a wide range of habitats, from mountain slopes to arid plains. Since rainfall stimulates breeding activity and more nests are started in the months when rainfall is highest (RE Simmons unpubl. data), the predicted reduction in rainfall in southern Africa due to global climate change (Midgley *et al.* 2001) may reduce breeding success in years to come. This is the only conservation threat to this species, which is common around human habitation. This species is not of conservation concern.

Carp's Tit (Carp's Black Tit) | *Parus carpi*



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This small, inconspicuous species is often overlooked in its broad-leaved habitat of north-west and north-central Namibia. Population size in Namibia is estimated at 493,500 birds with an area of occupancy of 237,000 km² (Jarvis & Robertson 1999). This species is common in broad-leaved woodland, especially dry mopane-dominated riverbeds in the escarpment areas of north-west Namibia. Reporting rates and field density estimates (up to 15 birds per km²) were higher in these areas than further south (Robertson *et al.* 1995, Simmons 1997). It also extends eastwards through Etosha National Park and as far as the Waterberg Plateau Park. About 12% of its Namibian range occurs within these parks and in the Daan Viljoen Game Reserve (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). In the Waterberg Plateau, its range overlaps with that of the Southern Black Tit *P. niger*, the latter occurring generally in broad-leaved woodland in the sandveld-dominated top of the escarpment and Carp's Tit occurring in the *Acacia* thornveld at the base and in broad-leaved woodland gullies and scree slopes below the plateau. Studies of its ecology, when it was induced to breed in nest boxes in Daan Viljoen Nature Reserve near Windhoek, indicated that it does not breed every year, particularly in dry summers, with more breeding in high rainfall years (Wiggins 2001). Mean clutch size was 4.1 eggs, laid from January to April, with a peak in February and March (Wiggins 2001, Brown *et al.* 2015). Of the 13 nests studied, 64% fledged at least one young. It is



a co-operatively breeding species, with several birds visiting and feeding nestlings in the nest (Osborne 2001, Wiggins 2001, CF Clinning unpubl. data). Given its large population size and lack of threats within most of its core range, the species is of no conservation concern. As for the Violet Wood-Hoopoe *Phoeniculus damarensis*, however, the collection of firewood in riverine areas (C Boix-Hinzen unpubl. data) may reduce the number of adequate nest holes and foraging sites, making it locally scarce in these areas.